

CHARLES MACCARTHY

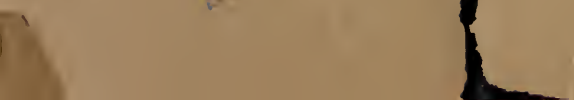
A RHODE ISLAND PIONEER, 1677

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CHARLES MACCARTHY, A RHODE ISLAND PIONEER.

THOMAS HAMILTON MURRAY.



IRISH settlers are found in Rhode Island at a very early period. They were contemporaneous with Roger Williams, John Clark, William Coddington and other leading men and proved sturdy, energetic members of the community.

Some of these Irish pioneers doubtless came to Rhode Island as soldiers in the Indian wars, and when the latter were over "remained and went not away." Others in all probability, came as settlers from St. Kitts, Jamaica, Montserrat and Barbadoes. During Cromwell's atrocious regime in Ireland thousands⁽¹⁾ of Irish were transported not only to the continent of North America but also to the West Indies. Other thousands followed them, forced from home by the iniquitous English policy of extermination.

It is not at all unlikely that Rhode Island received many of these hardy refugees and became to them a land of asylum and a permanent home. Nor can it reasonably be doubted that Connecticut, Plymouth and "the Bay" likewise contributed Irish settlers to Rhode Island at early periods and in goodly numbers. In Winthrop's Journal, under date of 1635, is an entry indicating that even as early as that a considerable immigration from Ireland to New England was under way. Thus readeth the entry:

"Another providence was in the voyage of Mr. Winthrop, the younger, and Mr. Wilson into England, who, returning in the winter time, in a small and weak ship, bound for Barnstaple, were driven by foul weather upon the coast of Ireland, not known by any in the

¹ See Prendergast's *Cromwellian Settlement of Ireland*, (London, 1865); Thebaud's *Irish Race in the Past and the Present*, (New York, 1883); McGee's *Irish Settlers in North America*, (Boston, 1851 and 1855); Condon's *Irish Race in America*; McGee's *Catholic History of North America*, (Boston, 1855); Cullen's *Story of the Irish in Boston*, (Boston, 1899); Walpole's *History of Ireland*, (London, 1882); Lingard's *History of England*; Morison's *Threnodia Hiberno-Catholica*, (Innsbruck, 1659); Haverty's and other histories of Ireland.

ship, and were brought, through many desperate dangers, into Galloway⁽²⁾ [Galway] where they parted, Mr. Winthrop taking his journey over land to Dublin, and Mr. Wilson by sea. His ship was forced back by tempest to Kinsale. Mr. Wilson being in Ireland, gave much satisfaction to the Christians there about New England. Mr. Winthrop went to Dublin, and from thence to Antrim in the North and came to the house of Sir John Clotworthy, the evening before the day when divers godly persons were appointed to meet at his house, to confer about their voyage to New England, by whom they were thoroughly informed of all things and received great encouragement to proceed on their intended course."

Sometimes immigrants from Ireland were welcomed⁽³⁾ to New England and at other times the contrary was the case. In the records of Massachusetts, 1652, we find that one David Sellick having craved pardon "for his offence in bringing some of the Irish men on shoare, hath his fine remitted, so as the first optunitie be taken to send them out of this jurisdiction." But where could they be sent? Only to some place where they would be likely to get a better reception. In this connection, Rhode Island, the refuge⁽⁴⁾ of so many oppressed by "the Bay," would naturally suggest itself, at least to a portion of the Irish immigrants thus proceeded against. The writer inclines to the belief that numbers of these Irish, being refused permission to reside elsewhere in New England, finally located in Rhode Island.

Charles Macarte (MacCarthy), the pioneer to whom this paper is specially devoted, was a resident of Rhode Island in 1677. When he came to the colony is unknown. He resided on the island of St. Christopher, otherwise known as St. Kitts, before arriving in Rhode Island, a fact mentioned in his will⁽⁵⁾. Some of the recording

² Evidently not Galloway in Scotland.

³ Under date of Sept. 25, 1634, the Massachusetts records have this entry: "It is ordered that the Scottishe and Irishe gentlemen wch intends to come hither shall have liberty to sitt down in any place Vpp Merimacke Ryver, not possessed by any." In the Massachusetts Records (vol. 1, p. 295), under date of 1640, is another interesting entry, to-wit: "It is ordered that the goods of the persons come from Ireland shallbee free from this rate [tax]." And a marginal heading reads: "Irish goods now land free from ye rat[e]."

⁴ Maryland and Rhode Island early enacted legislation providing for liberty of conscience, Maryland leading the way.

⁵ The greater part of the will was reproduced in the Narragansett Historical Register, James N. Arnold, editor, Providence, April, 1891. It was

clerks of those days were not particularly brilliant in writing proper names, Irish or otherwise. They appear to have, in a way, adopted the phonetic idea of spelling, that is according to sound. But it frequently happened that some names sounded differently to different clerks and thus, as in the case of Charles MacCarthy, we have a variety of spelling.⁽⁶⁾ At the same time it should be said, in justice to the clerks, that there were instances, no doubt, when they should not be held responsible for variations that appear. Orthography was not fixed then as now.

The Rhode Island pioneer of whom we are treating has had his name rendered as Macarte, Macarta, Macarty, Mackarte and Mecarty. In his will it is "Macarte," but whether that was the form authorized by him, or whether it was the work of the clerk who drew up the will, cannot now be determined. The same name applied to other early Rhode Island people is also recorded as Maccartee and McCartie. The style "Mac Carthy" used, for the sake of uniformity, in the caption of this paper, and in the text, is that common⁽⁷⁾ to the MacCarthys Mor, the MacCarthys Reagh, the MacCarthys Glas and other grand divisions of this great Irish clan.

Charles, the Rhode Island settler, had a brother who went from Ireland to Spain. This brother had been exiled and may have been among the Irish troops who, in 1652, after surrendering to Cromwell and Ireton, were allowed to depart and enlist in the Spanish⁽⁸⁾

probably copied from the East Greenwich probate records. The original draft of the will is not known to be now in existence.

6 This applied not only to Irish names, but to English, Scottish and others as well.

7 MacCarty was likewise a common form of the name. It also frequently appears in Ireland as Carty, and Carthy, without the Mac.

8 Many persons of Irish birth or extraction became distinguished in the armies of France and Spain. Among those in the French service were: Justin MacCarthy, (Lord Mountcashel), Colonel Proprietor, 1691, regiment de Mountcashel; Owen MacCarthy, Lieut. Colonel, 1715, regiment de Athlone; Daniel O'Brien, (Viscount Clare), Knight of the Orders of St. Louis and St. Lazarus, Colonel Proprietor, 1690, regiment de Clare; Arthur Dillon, Colonel Proprietor, 1690, regiment de Dillon; Gordon O'Neill, Colonel Proprietor, 1692, regiment de Charlemont; Charles O'Brien, (sixth Lord Clare), Colonel Proprietor, became a marshal of France; Dominic Sarsfield, (Lord Kilmallock), Colonel Proprietor, 1693, Kilmallock's Dragoons; Jeremiah Mahony, Lieut. Colonel, 1694, regiment de Limerick; John O'Donohoe, Lieutenant, 1677, Garde du Corps; Patrick Nugent, Lieut. Colonel, 1706, regiment de Berwick; Daniel O'Madden, Lieut. Colonel, 1703, regiment de Fitzgerald; Jacques Francois

service. These troops embarked for Spain at Kinsale, Waterford, Galway, Limerick and Bantry. With them also went many of the Irish nobility and gentry who had been ruthlessly dispossessed of their estates. In more propitious times some of these exiles returned from Spain. Charles's brother did so and from Kinsale wrote to Charles whom he supposed to be still in St. Christopher, urging him to return to Ireland. But Charles had, in the meantime, left St. Christopher and was probably then in Rhode Island. Though long delayed, the letter finally reached its destination, but Charles never went back nor, it is believed, did he and his brother ever meet again.

In 1677, Charles was one of a party of 48 settlers to whom a grant of 5,000 acres, to be called East Greenwich,⁽⁹⁾ was made by the General Assembly of Rhode Island. The grant was awarded largely for services rendered during King Philip's war, (1675-76). This would seem to indicate that Charles MacCarthy had been a participant in that war and it is quite within the bounds of probability that he had seen military service, too, in the Old Land. At a session of the General Assembly held at Newport, R. I., May, 1677, it was

ORDERED that a certain tract of land in some convenient place in the Narragansett country, shall be laid forth into one hundred acre shares, with the house lots, for the accommodation of so many of the inhabitants of this Colony as stand in need of land, and the General Assembly shall judge fit to be supplied.

Edward Sarsfield, (Earl of Lucan), Colonel, 1715, and Knight of the Golden Fleece; Arthur Lally, Knight Grand Cross of St. Louis, Lieut. General, 1746; Maurice MacMahon, Knight of Malta, Captain, 1761, Fitzjames' Horse; Count Patrick Darcy, Knight of St. Louis and of St. Lazarus, Colonel, Major General, died 1779. In our own day MacMahon, of Irish blood, became President of France.

Irish names met in the Spanish service include: Don Florencio MacCarthy, Cornet, 1705, Dragones de Dublin; Don Felix MacCarthy, Captain, 1718, regimento de Limerick; Don Justinio MacCarthy, Sub-Lieutenant, 1718, regimento de Hibernia; Don Carlos MacCarthy, Lieutenant, 1724, regimento de Hibernia; Don Carlos MacMahon, Captain, 1718, regimento de Ultonia; Don Juan O'Sullivan, Captain, 1724; Don Dionisio O'Sullivan, Captain, 1724; Don Demetrio Mahony, Lieut. Colonel, 1735; Don Cornelio MacMahon, Captain, 1771, regimento de Hibernia; Don Miguel O'Reilly, Captain of Grenadiers, 1777; Don Josef O'Donnell, Lieut. Colonel, 1777; Don Hugo O'Connor, Captain of Grenadiers, 1777; Don Pedro O'Daly, Commander and Colonel, 1803, regimento de Irlanda.

⁹ Records of the General Assembly. Arnold's Vital Record of Rhode Island. Greene's History of East Greenwich.

It was likewise enacted that the said tract be laid forth to contain 5,000 acres. Of this, 500 were to be laid in some place near the sea, as convenient as may be for a town, which said 500 acres shall be divided into 50 house lots and the remainder of the 5,000, being 4,500, shall be divided into 50 equal shares or great divisions.

It was further decreed that the persons to whom the grant was made have the rights, liberties and privileges of a town; also that they, or so many of them as shall be then present, not being fewer than twelve, on the said land, [are] required and empowered to meet together upon the "second Wednesday in April next" and constitute a town meeting, by electing a Moderator and a Town Clerk, with such constables as to them shall seem requisite; and also to choose two persons their Deputies to sit in General Assembly, and two persons, one to serve on the Grand Jury, and one on the Jury of Trials in the General Court of Trials.

Thus was launched the town of East Greenwich. The founders, no doubt, included "men from all parts" and if names may be taken as a criterion several of them, in addition to Charles MacCarthy, were from Ireland. The date of the incorporation of the town was Oct. 31, 1677, the year following the close of King Philip's war and the overthrow of the Narragansetts. Later, the boundaries of the town were enlarged by addition of 35,000 acres on the western border. Facing a great bay, it was hoped by the founders that the town might in time equal or surpass Newport or Providence. In 1741, the town was divided and the western part incorporated as West Greenwich. Both towns exist to-day, East Greenwich with a population of about 3,000 and West Greenwich with a population of between 600 and 700.

The most thickly settled part of East Greenwich is built mainly on a hillside and fronts a safe and spacious harbor. The town is a favorite summer resort. Some of the early settlers engaged in ship-building, and when the town was laid out two locations were set apart for shipyards. The persons named as incorporators of East Greenwich, including Charles MacCarthy, were each required to build within a year, on his lot, a house suitable for habitation, under pain of forfeiture. It was also required that highways be provided "from the bay up into the country" convenient for settlement. In addition to MacCarthy, the founders included Philip Long,⁽¹⁰⁾

¹⁰ Long,—a frequent name among people of Irish blood. It is derived from O'Longain, from whence we have O'Long.

Thomas Dungen⁽¹¹⁾ and John Strainge⁽¹²⁾—all three names typically Irish. Among the proprietors in 1700 was Anthony Long. About 1732, the town possessed stocks and whipping post, pillory, irons for mutilating ears, branding faces, cropping, etc., and similar appliances rife at that period.

The records of the "General Assembly held at Newport, the 6th of May 1679" show that "Charles Mecarte" and two others "being freemen of the towne of East Greenwich, are admitted freemen of the Collony." It does not appear that Charles ever married, at least the writer has met no record to that effect. Neither wife nor child are mentioned in the copy of the will extant. It is, of course, possible that he may have had both wife and children in the Old Land and that he survived them, but of that nothing definite is known. His will is dated "the 18th day of February, 1682" and was witnessed by John Knight and Thomas Fry, Jr. It was the first will to be recorded in the probate record book of East Greenwich where it was entered by "John Spenser, Town Clark." Written over 200 years ago, its quaint phraseology is a source of much interest at the present time. The will thus begins:

Unto all christian people unto whome these pents [presents] may com know yee that I Charles Macarte now of the towne of Est grenwich in the Colony of Rhod Island and providance plantetcons Being in parfact memory but weake in body doe meake this my lastt will and testament.

First, he requests that all his debts be paid. Then he makes John Spenser, Jr., his lawful heir and bequeaths him "my house and Land or Lands in this Towne." He designate John Spenser, Sr., "father to the aforesaid Spenser, Guardian to his sonn to teak cere that my will be performed."

One Pasco Whitford owed Charles a debt. This debt the latter cancels and, in addition gives Whitford "halfe the sheepe of mine in his keeping." The other half he gives to Edward Carter, to whom he likewise bequeaths his arms, i. e. two guns and a sword and also his chest "with the lock and cca." To Charles Heseltun,

¹¹ Dungen,—another name of Irish origin whatever its Rhode Island bearer may have been. It derives from O'Donnegan, and MacDonnagain, anglicized Donegan, Dunnegan, Dongan, Dungan, etc. O'Donnegans were chiefs of "Muskry of the Three Plains" in Cork. MacDonnagains were chiefs in Limerick. Walter, Lord Dungan, (Irish), was prothonotary of the Exchequer in Ireland in 1689. Thomas Dongan, an Irish Roman Catholic, became governor of the province of New York, 1683, and rendered a wise and just administration.

¹² Strange is a well-known name in Ireland.

Jr., he bequeaths a young horse "that will be two yere old next Spring branded with IS on the shoulder." To John Andrew is given "my biggest yron poot" [pot] and four narrow axes. His pewter he bequeaths Susanna Spencer, the same to be delivered to her when she is of age. All his carpenter and joiner tools are given by testator to William Spencer(13) "which shall be resarved for him till hee is capable unto mak youse of them," or of age. After disposing of certain clothing and household goods to Susanna Spencer, Sr., he mentions "one piece of brod cloth that I had to make mee a wascoat"; this he gives to his heir. Unto Hannah Long,(14) the younger, is given "one heffer of three yere" old, to be delivered her at his decease, and to "John Garard(15) a poor Country man of mine" he gives "three bushels of corne to be paid him presently after my desesc." But one of the most striking passages of the entire will is the following:

I have a letter that came from my Brother from Kingsile(16) [Kinsale] after his return from Spaine Being fersed from home in the war in which Letter he sent for mee home; but the troubles in Cristifars at that time fersed me from thence to New England and soe hee herd not of mee nor I of him. * * * I will that that letter with another [which] within it is, be sent unto him with a letter to signifie unto him how it hath been with mee since and when and where I end my dayes.

Charles then provides that Richard Dunn(17) of Newport, R. I., be added unto John Spenser, Sr., the first mentioned guardian, to carry out the provisions of the will, and "if aither of these soo Before men'oned betrusted should die before that my haire is of edge [age]; then he that doth survive shall heve power; and my will is that hee chuse one to him it being one that my haire doth approve of." The will goes on to say that "My ould mere [mare] I give to Samuel Bennet and hir foule [foal] or my young mere I give unto Mychell Spenser * * * and the rest of my Chatle Goodes and catten [cattle] I give unto John Spenser Senior and all

13 This name appears to have been spelled both Spenser and Spencer.

14 Probably the daughter of Philip and Hannah Long; Philip, who was one of MacCarthy's associates in the founding of the town.

15 The names Gerard and Gerrard are found in Ireland. This name Garard, mentioned by MacCarthy, however, may have been Garratt or Garrett, and therefore derived from Garritty or MacGeraghty.

16 This was also at one time written "Kingsale." It is in the County of Cork.

17 Dunn,—a typical Irish name; from the Irish O'Duin, and anglicized O'Dunn, Dun, Dunn, Dunne and Doyne. The sept was prominent, in the olden time, in Kildare and Queen's.

the deapts dowe to mee * * * As Concaning [concerning] the Land that I Give unto my haire and the house my will is that the land and house [be] unto him and his lawful haire for-ever * * * and for the Conformation of this my will and that it may apere unto all parsons [persons] unto whome it may come I have sett to my hand and seale this psent 18th day of February 1682." Charles died soon after, his will being entered in the town records in 1683-4.

The orthography of Charles MacCarthy's will must not be severely criticised. It was as correct as that found in the average document of the period in which he lived. Whether it was written by Charles or by someone acting for him, due allowance must be made for the times and conditions and for the fact that educational facilities were very meagre then as compared with those available at the present day.

It is a source of deep regret that so little is known about this Rhode Island pioneer. That he was a man of sturdy character, cannot be questioned. That he was worthy to rank as a founder of a town or a state must also be admitted. He plainly possessed traits and qualities entitling him to a place in the front rank of Rhode Island settlers.

And here we may indulge briefly in a retrospective glance at the status of the MacCarthys(18) in the land of Erin. For from these, unquestionably, the Rhode Island pioneer was descended. Then, we will touch upon certain "troubles in Cristifars" which may have been the same as those to which Charles MacCarthy alludes as having forced him to New England.

18 For interesting mention of the MacCarthys, see Burke's *Dormant, Abeyant, Forfeited, and Extinct Peerages*, (London, 1866); O'Hart's *Irish Pedigrees*, (Dublin, 1881); Burke's *Vicissitudes of Families*, (London, 1859-60); Lodge's *Peerage of Ireland*, (Dublin, 1789); Burke's *Landed Gentry*, (London, 1871); Burke's *General Armory*, (London, 1884); Washbourne's *Book of Family Crests*, (London, 1882); the *Royal Book of Crests*, London, (Macveigh); O'Hart's *Irish Landed Gentry*, (Dublin, 1877); Howard's *Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica*; Nichols' *Topographer and Genealogist* (London, 1853); the *Complete Peerage* (edited by G. E. C.), (London, 1893); the *Book of Dignities* (London, 1894); Cusack's *History of the City and County of Cork*, (Dublin and Cork, 1875); Prendergast's *Ireland from the Restoration to the Revolution (1660 to 1690)*, (London, 1887); Amory's *Transfer of Erin*, (Philadelphia, 1877); John O'Kane Murray's *Prose and Poetry of Ireland*, (New York, 1882); Douglas Hyde's *Literary History of Ireland*, (London, 1897); A *Historical Pedigree of the MacCarthys*, by D. McCarthy, (Exeter, Eng., 1880); Lower's *Patronymica Britannica*, (London, 1860).

Burke, Ulster King of Arms, the great authority on the British and Irish peerages, declares that "Few pedigrees in the British empire can be traced to a more remote or exalted source than that of the Celtic house of M'Carthy." The learned Dr. O'Brien says that it was "the most illustrious of all those families whose names begin with Mac." It has also truthfully been declared that "The MacCarthys may proudly defy any other family in Europe to compete with them in antiquity, or accurate preservation of the records of their descent." Their patrimony was chiefly in Cork and Kerry where they had strongholds for many centuries. They built over twenty castles there, many of them overlooking "the pleasant Bandon, crowned with many a wood." These castles were massively constructed, the towers and battlements being equal in grandeur and strength to those elsewhere in Europe. For generation after generation they defied the attacks of time and the elements and proudly reared aloft their stately walls. The ruins of some of them still remain, crowned with ivy, and frequented by appreciative tourists. The MacCarthys have been Princes of Carberry, Earls of Clancarty(19), Earls of Muskerry, Earls of Mountcashel, Viscounts of Valentia and have also held other titles. Their history has been replete with chivalrous deeds, brave men, handsome women, noted clerics, generous benefactors, whole-souled hospitality.

The MacCarthys were the dominant family in Desmond,(20) (South Munster), at the period of the Anglo-Norman invasion. The MacCarthy Mor, lord of the elder branch, was generally inaugurated in Kerry. The O'Sullivan Mor(21) and the O'Donoghoe Mor (22) presided at the ceremony. The hereditary judges of the MacCarthy Mor were the MacEgans; his captains of war, the O'Rourkes; and his poets and antiquaries, the O'Dalys and

19 Clancarty, from Clan Carty; the latter derives from Cartach or Cartagh, progenitor of the family.

20 Desmond, or South Munster, comprised the whole of Cork and the greater part of Kerry, together with a part of Waterford and South Tipperary. North Munster constituted the territory known as Thomond.

21 O'Sullivan Mor, Lord of Dunkerron. O'Sullivan Beara, Lord of Beara. Some of the O'Sullivans went to Spain, and were styled Counts of Bearhaven. Gen. John Sullivan of the American Revolution, and Hon. James Sullivan, Governor of Massachusetts, were descended from this Irish clan.

22 Chiefs of the O'Donoghoes were Princes of Lough Lein, and Lords of Glenfesk. The first bearer of the surname died A. D. 1057.

O'Quinns. His feudatories also included the O'Donovans⁽²³⁾ and O'Hurleys. Charles who died in 1770, was styled "the last MacCarthy Mor." The arms of the family are thus described: "Arg. a stag trippant, attired and unguled or." One branch of the family, had as its motto: "Fortis et fideli nihil difficile," and another: "Ex arduis perpetuum nomen." The motto of the MacCarthy Reagh was: "Fortis, ferox et celer." "The MacCarthys were a regal and princely house," observes Burke, and he states that at one period the head of the clan could muster 3,000 men-at-arms. The MacCarthys Reagh constituted the second sept of the clan in point of importance, while the MacCarthys Glas were also a strong branch of the family.

Dermot MacCarthy, feudal lord and founder of the house of Muskerry, was killed in 1367. Cormac MacCarthy, slain in 1494, had been lord of Muskerry for 40 years. Donogh MacCarthy Mor was, in 1556, created Earl of Clancare, (Clancarty), and Viscount Valentia. Cormac Oge MacCarthy became a Viscount in 1628. There was a Callachan MacCarthy who married Elizabeth Fitzgerald, daughter of the Earl of Kildare, and died in 1676. A Charles MacCarthy, born about 1721, was a solicitor, seneschal of the manor of Macroom, recorder of Clonakilty and clerk of the Crown for the County of Cork. A Donoch⁽²⁴⁾ MacCarthy, lord viscount Muskerry was an Irish officer exiled to the continent in 1641-42. He had commanded the King's forces in Munster against Cromwell. At the restoration of Charles II. Donoch returned to Ireland and contested the right of Florence and Charles MacCarthy to the title and dignity of "MacCarthy Mor." He was created Earl Clancarty, and died in 1665.

It is to be regretted that we do not know the name of the brother of Charles MacCarthy,⁽²⁵⁾ the Rhode Island settler—the

²³ The O'Donovans have been Lords of Clancahill. In 1607 an Inquisition taken at Cork mentions "The manor of Castell O'Donyvane, containing twenty and one ploughlands." The principal castle of the O'Donovans at one time, was situated in the County of Limerick. "Daniell O'Donovane, Gent.," was one of the Papist Forfeiting Proprietors under Cromwell. He was of the Barony of Courcey, in Cork.

²⁴ Also rendered Donogh and Donough.

²⁵ A Charles MacCarthy appears in the "Inrolments of the Decrees of Innocents" under the Commonwealth rule in Ireland. There were several MacCarthys in the Irish parliament of James II. They included MacCarthy, (Earl Clancarty,) and MacCarthy, (Viscount Mountcashel,) in the Lords; and Charles, Justin, Florence, Owen and Daniel Fion MacCarthy

one to whom he refers in his will as having written from Kinsale. Did we have access to that letter which Charles of Rhode Island received the desired knowledge would, no doubt, be obtained. But at this distance of time, all efforts to locate the letter have failed.

It seems reasonable to conclude that the brother of the Rhode Island pioneer was a man of some prominence—possibly of much prominence. It has been suggested that he was Donoch, Earl Clancarty, just mentioned, but this could hardly have been so, as the Earl died in 1665 and Charles of Rhode Island, when he made his will in 1682, speaks of his brother as still living.

There was another Donoch MacCarthy, descendant of the first named, who was privately married when but sixteen years of age to Lady Elizabeth Spencer, daughter of Robert Spencer, Earl of Sunderland. It may be recalled, purely as a coincidence, that Charles MacCarthy of East Greenwich, R. I., was an intimate friend of the Spencers of that town and made one of them his heir. On the arrival of James II. in Ireland (1688), this second Donoch MacCarthy was one of the Irish officers who received him at Kinsale. At the fall of Cork in 1690, MacCarthy was captured and imprisoned in the Tower of London. He had succeeded to the title of Earl Clancarty and was a man of immense estate, his resources being equivalent at this day, it is stated, to £200,000 per annum. All this was forfeited owing to his adhesion to the cause of James II. In 1694, he escaped from the Tower and fled to France. Upon rashly going back to England, in 1698, he was rearrested and exiled. He died in 1704 at a locality in Hamburg. If Charles MacCarthy of Rhode Island was "forced from home" at the same time as his brother, it would be interesting to know why one went to Spain and the other to the island of St. Christopher. The whole matter, however, is wrapped in mystery. Charles tells us that his brother "returned from Spaine," which statement reminds us of a prominent fact. King Charles II. in a famous declaration mentions a large number of of Irish "restorees," who were to be given back their former estates in Ireland for having "Continued with Us or served faithfully under Our ensigns beyond the Seas."²⁶ Among these Irish restorees is mentioned Col. Charles MacCarthy of Kilbretan,

in the Commons. Many of the MacCarthys, described as "Papists," were included in the list of "Forfeiting Proprietors" under the Cromwellian regime in Ireland.

²⁶ This Declaration was issued by the King, Nov. 30, 1660. The restorees were to be in possession of their estates by May 2, 1661.

county Cork, and Capt. Charles MacCarthy, also of Cork. In another place Charles II. mentions Charles James MacCarthy, Viscount Muskerry.

A fourth Charles MacCarthy is mentioned during the Cromwellian settlement as a "Papist," whose property was to be confiscated. These four Charles MacCarthy's were all Irish officers or leading gentlemen, and I am inclined to think the Rhode Island settler was one of them.

Yet another point: Charles of Rhode Island tells us that his brother, who was again in Ireland, had written from Kinsale asking him to return. Why? May it not be that Charles and his brother were both "restorees," as defined in the King's Declaration above mentioned?

At what period Charles MacCarthy left Ireland and located in St. Christopher, or St. Kitts, is problematical. If we knew the time of his coming to New England we might be able to approximate the St. Kitts date. It is assumed, however, that he was in St. Kitts as early as 1650. In an old French atlas by Sanson, published that year, Montserrat is described as having been settled by Irish. Rev. Andrew White, S. J., who accompanied the first colonists to Maryland, in 1634, makes a like statement. He adds that these Irish Catholics had gone first to Virginia, but being refused permission to land had taken possession of Montserrat. Large numbers of Irish are heard from in St. Kitts in 1650. They were visited by Father John Destrèche, also written De Stritch,(27), disguised as a

27 He is believed to have been a Limerick priest named Hartegan who assumed the above name in order to attract less attention from hostile sources in endeavoring to minister to his flock. In the Cromwellian era scores of Irish priests were seized in Ireland and shipped, per force, to the West Indies where, doubtless, they were cruelly treated.

In 1638-40, and soon after, hosts of Irish settled in the West Indies. As early as the first named year several Irish names appear in Barbadoes, borne by men each owning at least ten acres of land there. But even in the West Indies, the curse of English persecution followed them. An Irish writer of the period says that the enemy "seeing that the Irish were prospering in the Island of St. Kitts, seized in one night and bound with chains three hundred of the principal of them, and carried them off to a desert island, that they might perish there of cold and hunger. This was, alas! too sadly realized in all except two, who, through despair, cast themselves into the sea, resolved to risk their lives on the waves rather than on the barren rocks. One of them soon perished, the other reached the mainland, bearing the sad news of the dreadful fate of his companions."

About 1640, a party of refugees from the West Indies landed at what is now New Haven, Ct., where they soon after dispersed "and some

trader to protect him from persecution, or even death, at the hands of the English officials who had no love for an Irish priest of the Church of Rome.

In time he collected on that and the neighboring islands a flock of 3,000 (28) Catholics for whom he conducted religious services in the depths of the forest. Persecution at the hands of the English, however, soon broke up this condition of affairs and dispersed the Irish to New England and other parts along the coast. Were these the "troubles in Cristifars" that obliged Charles MacCarthy to leave that place? It is quite possible. Be that as it may, his coming was of benefit to Rhode Island, it being at a time when stout hearts, strong arms and vigorous characters were especially desired in the colony.

Since Charles MacCarthy's day, the old clan has been well represented in Rhode Island. Hundreds of MacCarthys have settled, or been born, in the state and have splendidly contributed to its upbuilding. A John McCarthy served in Col. Elliott's regiment which was raised, early in the Revolution, in accordance with a recommendation of the "Committee of the New England States" for the defense of Rhode Island. An Ensign, De Maccarty, came with our French allies to Newport, R. I., during the Revolution and was attached to the line-of-battleship *Le Conquerant*, a 74. He was, no doubt, a scion of the Irish MacCarthys who had settled in France. Col. Justus I. McCarty organized and commanded the Fourth Rhode Island regiment in 1861. He was an experienced soldier. Patrick J. McCarthy, a native of Ireland, has been a well-known lawyer in Providence, R. I., for many years past. He was at one time a member of the General Assembly of Rhode Island, the same legislative body, it will be noted, that over 200 years ago

returned to Ireland." (See Felt's *Ecclesiastical History of New England*, Boston, 1855); Edward Larkin, a Rhode Island settler, is heard from at Newport as early as 1655. His name appears in the "Roule of ye Freemen of ye colonie of everie Towne." Larkin, or O'Larkin, is a well-known Irish name. The Clan's territory in Ireland was known as "the O'Larkins Country."

28 During the Cromwellian era many thousands of Irish were swept from the Old Land, "the design being the utter extirpation of the Irish nation." Condon declares, (*The Irish Race in America*), that the number of Irish transported from their native land to the British colonies in America, from 1651 to 1660, exceeded the total number of the latter's inhabitants at that period, "a fact which ought not to be lost sight of by those who undertake to estimate the strength of the Celtic [Irish] element in this nation."

mentioned Charles MacCarthy as one of the incorporators of East Greenwich.

Since writing the foregoing, I have received the following valuable communication from Mr. Lyman P. Spencer, who is descended from the Spensers of East Greenwich, R. I., mentioned by Charles MacCarthy. It will be noted that Mr. Spencer uses the form "Macarty." The change from Spenser to Spencer in his own family name will also be marked.

Brooklyn, N. Y., Sept. 9, 1901.

Mr. Thos. Hamilton Murray, Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:—I am in receipt of your letter of the 7th, making inquiries about Charles Macarty of East Greenwich, R. I., 1677-82.

Mr. Arnold published, in the Narragansett Historical Register, the entire will of Mr. Macarty as given in the East Greenwich town records. I sent it to him as being the oldest will on those records, but did not, I think, make much, if any, comment upon it.

Mr. John Spenser, to whose family Macarty left much of his estate, was the town clerk, and copied the will upon the records. As the executor he would have retained the will; but I have never been able to learn that a single scrap of Mr. Spenser's papers has been preserved. * * * The records show that he [Macarty] was one of the original grantees of the East Greenwich tract; that he drew town lot, (ten acres), No. 22, in first division, and farm No. 20, in first division, (90 acres).

The laying out of his farm is given on the records and I have a copy of it which, since getting your letter I have tried, without success, to lay my hands on. I may find it later and will send a copy, in that case, if you desire. John Spenser, Jr., to whom Mr. Macarty gave his farm, I think made it his homestead. If I located it correctly, it is situated about in the southeasterly angle made by the crossing of the Mascochaug Creek with the road crossing that creek at Payne's Mills, and Mr. Macarty would have been a near neighbor of the Spensers. [Mr. Spencer has since written that it was Charles' ten-acre lot that was thus situated and not his farm of 90 acres.]

I rather infer from the will that Mr. Macarty was from Kinsale, Ireland, and that in the course of his wanderings he had passed some time in St. Christophers, West Indies. It may be that he and John Spenser, Sr., were related, or had been comrades in arms, or in adventure, in the West Indies; or there may have been a kinship

through Mrs. Spenser, who is, however, said to have been a Griffin.

There is a tradition amongst some of the Spencers that their ancestors came from England, (one tradition says from Scotland), by way of Ireland, and Charles Macarty's will could, no doubt, be cited as a pointer in that direction.

If you could go to Greenwich and examine the records, which are well preserved, you could gather, I think, quite a little collection of items along the line of your inquiry. Mr. Spenser's writing, in which those first years are recorded, is somewhat difficult to decipher—to most people—and it might require a day or so of study to enable you to get hold of it, so as to make out what he says.

Should you find evidence of relationship between Mr. Macarty and the Spencers, I should be glad to know. * * *

Yours very truly,

LYMAN P. SPENCER.

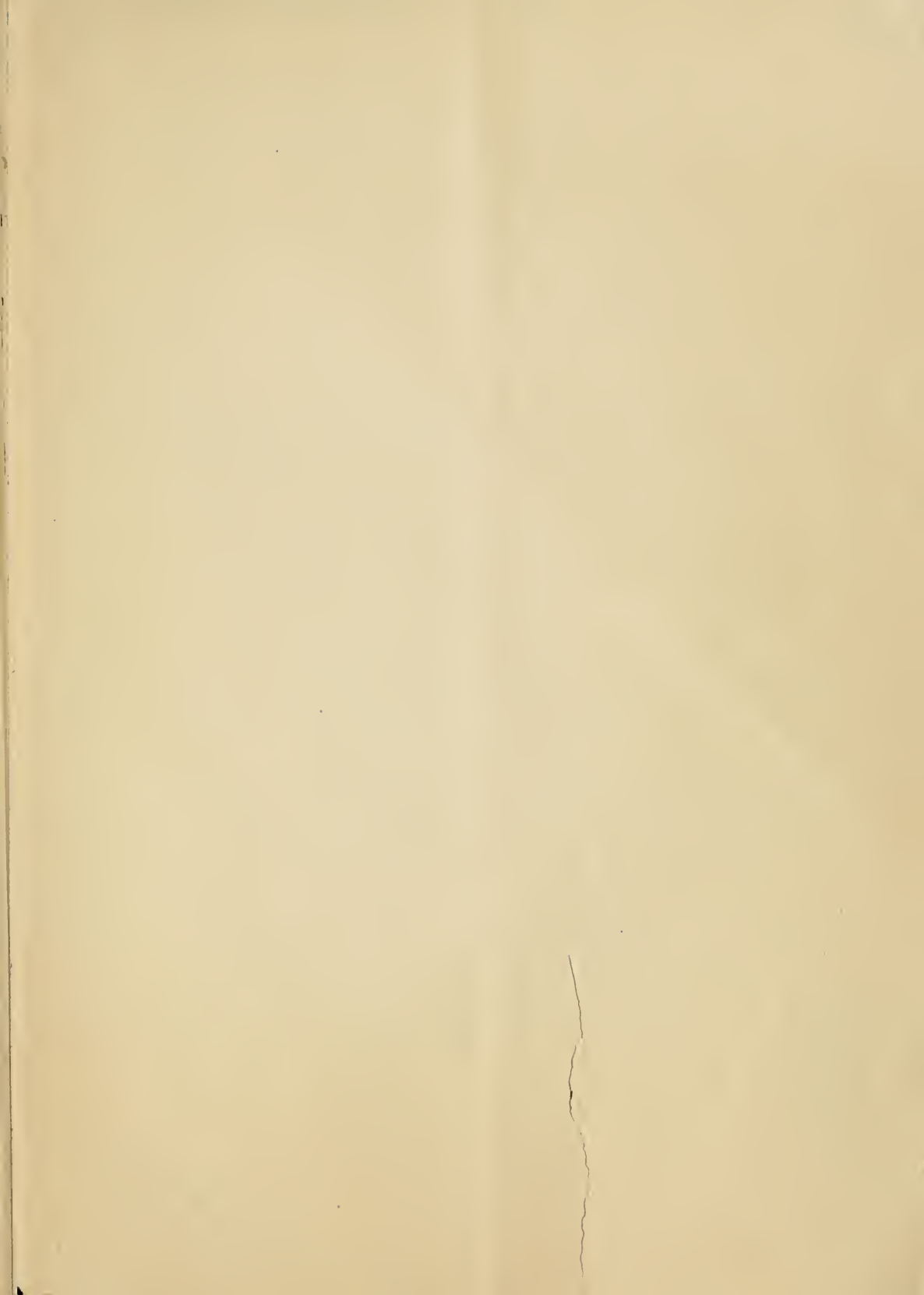
NOTE:—The Spencer name is found in Ireland for many generations, and appears under both spellings. Bearers of the name were among the "Forfeiting Proprietors" and other Irish who, during the Cromwellian regime, were ordered to migrate "To Hell or Connaught."

Edmund Spenser, the poet, who resided in Ireland for a period, is generally believed to have married an Irish woman. His grandson William was, in Cromwell's time, ordered to transplant himself into Connaught as an Irishman, and his estates were declared forfeited. He appealed to Cromwell to use his influence to have the edict set aside, citing the services of his grandfather, the poet. Some authorities assert that Cromwell interceded successfully; others, that he failed.

Great numbers of descendants of English settlers in Ireland became thoroughly Irish, many dropped their English surnames and assumed Irish ones, wedded Irish wives, were rated as "Papists," and dressed "after ye Irishe fashion." In "A List of Papist Proprietors" in Ireland, at the period of Cromwell's operations, we find such names as: Chamberlain, Chapman, Clarke, Ellis, Eustace, Field, Foster, Grant, Gould, Haile, Hamlin, Holden, Hood, Humphrey, Kent, Preston, Russell, Talbot, Usher, Warren, and Weston. Some of these Irish were, no doubt, at least paternally, of English ancestry but, in some cases, several generations removed. The foregoing are also marked as "Forfeiting Proprietors."

Four Spencers are mentioned among the "Forty-Nine" officers who served the cause of Charles I, or Charles II, in Ireland. It is quite possible that John Spenser, the Rhode Island settler, and intimate friend of Charles MacCarthy, was an Irish officer who, like many other chivalrous spirits of his time, was obliged by the fortunes of war to leave Ireland and reside in other parts.

T. H. M.





ERRATA.—In footnote on page 1, where reference is made to Cullen's Story of the Irish in Boston, the date of publication should be 1889 instead of 1899. Page 6, the word designate, in the 26th line, should read designates. Page 15, second line, the name Griffiin should be Griffin.

